

Although not formally connected, at its foundation, with the National Committee, the *Statesman's* directors, and practically all its shareholders were members Mrs Webb was herself a director, while Sidney was Chairman The editor was given all freedom At the same time, as she puts it in her Valedictory to *The Crusade*,

"We shall both write a great deal, probably every week, and we shall have the assistance of a brilliant staff—is not Mr Bernard Shaw himself one of us?—and quite special correspondents from all parts of the world "

Those who took out subscriptions before April 12th were to get their *Statesman* for a guinea a year a plan then new in journalism, and highly successful

Nowhere do the qualities that make the Webbs great shine out more clearly than in the two volumes they were later to devote to the history of the English Poor Law in two centuries, and incidentally, of the Crusade for the Minority Report They shine above all, in the passage, where, after a brief account of the great campaign, they record its failure, as such, and then pass on to a survey of Poor Law development, and the development of Prevention, since 1910, which is absolutely detached in its appraisals and m its analysis

They knew what had happened The politicians had beaten them John Burns, from his stronghold m the Local Government Board, had proved stouter to resist than they to attack It was a major defeat, such as they were far too shrewd and far too able as strategists not to recognise and understand Unforgettably they had learned

the vital importance of the political side of
social effort,
and the relative inefficacy of non-party
action